

Message Text

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ORIGIN EUR-12

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TO USMISSION USNATO IMMEDIATE
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USLOSACLANT PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 148135

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: OCON, NATO, MILI, TAD

SUBJECT: TRANSATLANTIC DIALOGUE AND FAMILY OF WEAPONS

REF: (A) USNATO 5827, 081615Z JUNE 78
(B) STATE 141220, 031754Z JUNE 78

1. WE AGREE WITH MISSION'S RECOMMENDATION REF A THAT
IT WOULD BE USEFUL, IN LIGHT OF THE FRENCH TAD
INTERVENTION AT THE SUMMIT, TO KEEP THE RECORD STRAIGHT
BY REITERATING OUR POSITION ON THE TAD AT THE PERMREP
LUNCHEON JUNE 13. ACCORDINGLY, YOU SHOULD MAKE THE
FOLLOWING POINTS AT PERMREPS LUNCHEON:

-- WE WELCOME SYG LUNS' COMMENTS AT THE SUMMIT ON THE
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TAD (REF B). WHILE WE WOULD OF COURSE LIKE TO SEE MORE
RAPID PROGRESS IN THE TAD FOR THE SAKE OF ALLIANCE
MILITARY CAPABILITIES, WE RECOGNIZE THE CONSTRAINTS ON
PROGRESS THAT ARE INHERENT IN THE COMPLEXITIES OF ARMS
COOPERATION GENERALLY, AND IN THE IEPG'S DESIRE TO
SPEAK WITH ONE VOICE. GIVEN THE IMPORTANCE OF ARMS
COOPERATION TO ALLIANCE MILITARY CAPABILITIES, WE ARE

PREPARED FOR THE CONCERTED, LONG-TERM EFFORT THAT WILL
BRING THE RESULTS WE ALL SEEK.

-- WE BELIEVE THE DIALOGUE SHOULD EXPLORE A VARIETY
OF MEANS TO IMPROVE ARMAMENTS COOPERATION IN THE
ALLIANCE. WE WILL FORWARD TO THE IEPG THIS WEEK THE
TWO PAPERS, REQUESTED AT THE LAST TAD MEETING APRIL 27,
IN WHICH WE CLARIFY OUR PROPOSALS FOR IMPROVED
COOPERATION IN THE AREAS OF THE DEVELOPMENT AND PRODUC-
TION OF DEFENSE EQUIPMENT AND FOR BETTER DEFENSE
INDUSTRY COOPERATION.

2. FYI. AT THE MEETING OF DEPUTY NADS ON THE TAD
JUNE 28-29, WE PLAN TO STRESS THE NEED TO CONCENTRATE
ON PRACTICAL ASPECTS OF ARMAMENTS COOPERATION IN TERMS
OF SPECIFIC EQUIPMENT PROJECTS, RATHER THAN ON
THEORETICAL ISSUES, WHICH OCCASIONALLY DIVIDE US.
WE HOPE TO GET AWAY FROM THE ORGANIZATIONAL QUESTION OF
SUB-GROUPS, GIVEN EUROPEAN UNWILLINGNESS TO ACCEPT OUR
PROPOSALS FOR AD HOC GROUPS TWO AND THREE, AND OUR
INABILITY TO ACCEPT ONLY A GROUP FOCUSSED ON OBSTACLES
TO THE US DEFENSE MARKET. THE TWO PAPERS WE WILL
CIRCULATE TO THE IEPG THIS WEEK ARE INTENDED AS BACK-
GROUND INFORMATION, AND WE DO NOT SEEK DISCUSSION OF
THEM PER SE. END FYI.

3. AS REGARDS THE FOUR-POWER FAMILY OF WEAPONS
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AGREEMENT, WE ARE WELL AWARE OF THE PROBLEM OF
ASSOCIATING OTHER ALLIES WITH THE DEVELOPMENT OF
THE CONCEPT. PIERRE CHAMPENOIS, CHAIRMAN OF IEPG
PANEL III, IN CONVERSATIONS HERE JUNE 9 MADE CLEAR
HIS OWN BELGIAN GOVERNMENT'S INTEREST IN HEARING
MORE, IN A TAD CONTEXT, ABOUT THE WEAPONS FAMILY
CONCEPT. HE FULLY RECOGNIZES THAT FRANCE MIGHT
BE RELUCTANT IN THIS REGARD. WE PLAN TO DISCUSS
THIS PROBLEM AT THE FOUR-POWER DEPUTY NADS MEETING
THIS COMING WEEK AND HOPE TO MOVE AHEAD EXPEDITIOUSLY.
CONTRARY TO THE ECONOMIST ARTICLE, FOUR-POWER NADS
HAVE NOT REPEAT NOT ANNOUNCED AGREEMENT ON WEAPONS
FAMILY PACKAGES. WE EXPECT TO FORWARD GUIDANCE ON
THIS QUESTION SHORTLY. VANCE

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